

*Fred  
3/28*

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

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ARMY review completed.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

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STATE	#X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	#X	AIR	#X	FBI	AEC		
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## A. Procurement of Soviet Military Supplies

Responsibility for Procurement

1. [redacted] the Soviet Ministry of Defense was responsible for procuring and distributing all supplies for the Soviet Army. [redacted] 25X1  
 in Austria a Ministry of Defense order [redacted] gave the norms for rationing and [redacted] specified how much and what type of food each military individual was authorized by rank and duty assignment. [redacted] 25X1  
 food for Soviet troops in Austria came from all Satellite countries and the USSR. [redacted] all meal came from the USSR, all vegetables from Hungary, and eggs, raisins, and dried fruit (for officer rations only) from Bulgaria. [redacted] 25X1  
 on the food labels [redacted] information from ration personnel. [redacted] 25X1

Method of Procurement

2. [redacted] the Central Party Committee merely ordered a specific factory to start producing a specific item to be delivered on a specific date to an unknown military warehouse or supply dump [redacted] 25X1  
 [redacted] 25X1

Storage and Movement of Supplies

3. [redacted] each military district maintained [redacted]

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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a dump for these supplies which were issued directly to units within the USSR from the military district dumps. In Austria, they were received by CGFA dumps and then re-issued to division dumps.

Transport of all supplies in the USSR was primarily by railroad because motor transport did not exist for any large-scale movement of goods.

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### B. Rear Services and Supply Procedures

#### Organization and Functions of Soviet Army Rear Services

##### a. General

4.

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Ministry's headquarters was located on Ulitsa Frunze in Moscow, that it covered a large area and was the largest building on this street.

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Fronts did not exist in peacetime. their peacetime equivalent was Groups of Forces and Military Districts.

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Division OVS dumps were located at Blumau (N 47-55, E 16-18), near Vienna, in the winter and at Goepfritz (N 48-43, E 15-24) in the summer.

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Thirteenth Gds Mecz Div units not located at Goetzendorf (N 48-01, E 16-35) drew their bread from the division "PAKh" (full title unknown) in Goepfritz in the summer. Meat and bread were drawn in Schwechat (N 48-08, E 16-28) in the winter. Austrian civilian trucks drawing meat at this point in spring 1954.

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##### b. Battalion Level

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organization and functions of the rear service of the battalion in Austria - the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn (in Goetzendorf) of the 13th Gds Mecz Div.

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functions of each individual of the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn rear services as follows:

- (a) The Deputy Commander for Rear Services, often called Deputy Commander for Housekeeping (Khozyaystvennyk) Services, was a major. He was responsible for all battalion housekeeping functions and supply except for ammunition, combat equipment, transportation, POL, and training aids. He supervised the procurement, storage, preparation, and serving of rations, and was responsible for the procurement, storage, repair, and billeting within the unit.
- (b) The Chief of Clothing and Equipment Supply (OVS-Obozo-Veshchevoye Snabzheniye), a senior lieutenant, was directly

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subordinate to the battalion's Deputy Commander for Rear Services. He operated a battalion clothing and equipment warehouse and drew these items directly from the OVS dumps of the 13th Gds Mecz Div. He supervised the issuing, repair, and replacement of clothing footgear and items of individual equipment for officers and EM. His organization issued and replaced bedding and underwear for bachelor officers and all EM. Officers living with their dependents drew these items but had to send their own laundry to Austrian laundresses. The Chief of Clothing and Equipment Supply had one sergeant who managed the OVS warehouse of the battalion (clothing and equipment), two cobblers for minor footgear repairs, and one tailor for minor clothing repairs; he also operated a battalion bath, managed by one of the cobblers. He was the custodian of an unidentified battalion fund which was used to purchase any necessary items not available for issue, such as materials for training aids, wood, paper, and paint. These purchases were made by the C/S, Deputy CO for Political Affairs, and the battalion CO. A bill was presented to the Chief of OVS who approved it and paid for it from this fund; this fund was replenished each quarter. These items were listed on the battalion property books as government property, and issue slips were made out to show their disposition. Source did not know the amount of money in the fund or any further details on it other than the fact that at the end of every quarter, any money left over had to be returned. For this reason there was always a considerable amount of useless buying at the end of each quarter to spend all the fund.

- (c) The Chief of Rations and Forage Supply (PFS-Produkto-Furazhnoye Snabzheniye), a lieutenant, was directly subordinate to the battalion Deputy CO of Rear Services. He operated the Battalion Ration and Forage (PFS) Warehouse through a private. He was responsible for the procurement, storage, and issue of all rations used by the battalion except for certain items purchased by the officers' mess on the Austrian market. Meat and bread for the battalion were procured from an unknown firm in Schwechat, near Vienna.
- (d) The Deputy Commander of Technical Services (Zamestitel' Komandira po Tekhnicheskim Sluzhbam), a lieutenant, was responsible for the maintenance, repair, storage, and supply of spare parts and POL for all unit vehicles. He was charged with all driver and mechanic training in the unit. The location of the division POL dump is unknown to source.
- (e) The Chief of Gunnery Service (Nachal'nik po Ognyevoy Sluzhby), a captain, was responsible for ammunition procurement, storage, and issue. He was also charged with all procurement, storage, maintenance, replacement, and utilization of weapons including weapons mounted on tanks and SP guns.
- (f) The Chief of Communication (Nachal'nik Svyazi), a lieutenant, was responsible for the procurement, storage, maintenance, repair, and utilization of all unit communication equipment including radios mounted on tanks and SPs. He was also responsible for all communication procedures and training within the unit. The location of the signal dump is unknown to source.

Prior to 1954, all rations [redacted] were picked up and delivered to the battalion ration dump (PFS warehouse) by transportation organic to the battalion. After 1 January 1954, rations were delivered by vehicles which [redacted] were from the division PFS warehouse. These trucks were covered van-type vehicles with covered trailers;

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ZIS-5 and Studebaker models were used. [redacted]

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they delivered meat, bread, sugar, tea, flour,  
raisins, butter, and eggs. [redacted]

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9. In the fall, once a year, vegetables were brought from Hungary by train and picked up by battalion trucks at the railroad station in Goetzendorf. An officer and a private from the battalion were sent by train to an unknown point in Hungary to pick up the vegetables for the battalion. These vegetables included cabbages, potatoes, beets, and carrots. Each year, the officer returned after an absence of only four or five days. The private was gone about one and one-half months and returned with the vegetables.

10. [redacted] all cereals used by the battalion were brought from the USSR. From time to time, the Bn Deputy of Rear Services was notified by telephone that a freight car had arrived at Bruck (N 48-01, E 16-46) for the battalion and that transportation should be sent at a specified time to unload it. [redacted] this was the method for delivering cereals to the battalion. 25X1

11. [redacted] the eggs used by the battalion officers' mess had "Bulgaria" stamped on each egg. [redacted] Bulgaria was the country from which they came; the EM mess received no eggs. Dried fruit and raisins had "Bulgaria" marked on the containers. Fish came in glass jars, marked "from Astrakhan", and in tins marked "product of the USSR." Herring was delivered in unmarked wooden barrels [redacted] 25X1 originated in the USSR. [redacted] 25X1

12. All food was prepared in the battalion mess for the EM; the cooks were subordinate to the Bn Chief of PFS. [redacted] however, the Deputy CO for Rear Services personally supervised the EM mess. The Chief of PFS was also responsible for maintaining an emergency food (NZ-Neprikosnovenny Zapas) supply dump. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] an unknown number of large paper bags piled up in the PFS dump. [redacted] the dump supervisor that each bag contained an unknown number of small paper packets of emergency rations, one for each man in the battalion. Each packet contained rations to last one man 48 hours and contained dried bread, sugar, canned meat, and tea. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] this food required no preparation and was ready to eat and [redacted] the packets were to be issued in the event of a combat alert. Other battalion emergency (NZ) supplies were gasoline and oil drums, number and size unknown, located in the battalion POL dump, and an undetermined amount and type of ammunition in the battalion ammunition dump and company supply rooms. 25X1

13. [redacted] the battalion POL supply [redacted] 25X1 [redacted] was brought in by the battalion fuel truck. [redacted] ammunition was drawn from the 13th Gds Mecz Div ammunition dump in Kaisersteinbruch (N 47-59, E 16-42). [redacted] 25X1

## c. Company Level

14. At the company level in the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn, there were three men concerned with supply. They were the company commander, the first sergeant, and the company clerk (kapten-armus).

15. In the battalion, there were two types of companies: two training companies and a tank supply company. The two training companies were comprised of trainees, cadre squad leaders, platoon sergeants, a first sergeant, a

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company clerk, and the company officers. The tank supply company had a similar organization except that it lacked a company clerk. In the former, the first sergeant and the company clerk were the only individuals concerned with company supply.

(a) The company CO was responsible for the supply of EM clothing and equipment in his company. Company officers drew these items directly from the OVS warehouse of their battalion. It was the accepted rule in units of the Soviet Army known 25X1 to source that all the company supply duties were turned over to the first sergeant.

(b) The first sergeant's duties were those listed in the unclassified Manual of Interior Service (Ustav Vnutrennoy Sluzhby). The first sergeant substituted for the company CO in the absence of all company officers; therefore, all EM of the company were subordinate to him. The functions of the first sergeant of the training companies differed in some respects from those of the tank supply company first sergeant. In the training companies, all EM were directly subordinate to the first sergeant while in the tank supply company extended-tour soldiers (sverkhsrochniki) and the EM of the battalion staff were subordinate to him only when they were physically present in the company area.

First sergeants were responsible for determining that their EM possessed the items of clothing and equipment shown in their individual service books (sluzhebnaya kniga). This equipment consisted of one pair of boots, one cotton shirt, one pair of cotton trousers, one overcoat, one jacket (bushlat), one belt (leather or fabric), one pair of gloves, two pairs of cotton foot wraps, branch-of-service shoulderboards, one mess pot, one spoon, one mug, one canteen and cover, one gas mask and a carbine or PPSh.

Seasonally the EM were issued either a 25X1 winter hat and one set of long underwear for winter wear or a service cap and two sets of sleeveless underwear for summer wear.

First sergeants were also responsible for designating sleeping areas, supervising the policing of the barracks area, and supervising the daily schedule and all activity within the company area. Outside the company area, the immediate supervisor of the individual soldier assumed all responsibility for him.

First sergeants also had to determine that the EM of their companies were properly fed and on time at the battalion mess. Source heard that companies in the field had their rations delivered by the first sergeant and also that this duty was often delegated to the platoon sergeants.

Each first sergeant had a supply room (kapterka) within his company area. A small amount of bed linen, company political training equipment (paper, paints, brushes, placards, etc.), extra individual equipment, personal effects of EM for safekeeping, boots and clothing submitted for repair, and work coveralls were stored there. 25X1 the tank supply company, and in this company the first sergeant issued the senior EM of each barracks room bedding,

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soap, tobacco (makhorka), cigarette paper, and sufficient matches for all the men quartered in the room. There never seemed to be any shortage of these items which were given out rather freely on request. In the training companies, the first sergeants issued these items to the platoon sergeants for distribution within the platoons. Matches, tobacco, and cigarette paper were drawn by the first sergeants from the battalion ration and forage warehouse, in unknown quantities, for distribution to the men in their companies. [redacted] these items were never in short supply.

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The first sergeant received from the battalion clothing and equipment warehouse soap, bed linen, clothing, and individual equipment. He issued uniforms semi-annually from a roster on which sizes were recorded. He also received mattress covers, blankets and pillows (one for each individual) from the clothing and equipment warehouse when necessary. Linen, uniforms and underwear were exchanged for laundered items by the first sergeant each week for the company at the clothing and equipment warehouse. The chief of the battalion clothing and equipment service took dirty items to be laundered to an unknown Soviet laundry near Baden (N 48-01, E 16-14).

(c) Basically, the company clerk of each training company had company administrative duties. He assisted the first sergeant in issuing supplies and kept the supply room clean and in order. He initiated and maintained a service record for each EM arriving in the unit. He interviewed each individual within a week of his arrival in the company for pertinent vital statistics to be included in the company service record. The following information was listed in the service record:

- (a) Full name
- (b) Date and place of birth
- (c) Type and level of education
- (d) Home address, identification of parents, and names of all members of the individual's immediate family who resided in the family home.
- (e) Last place of employment and civilian profession
- (f) Nationality
- (g) Communist Party data
- (h) Grade and duty assignment of individual with the company.

25X1

[redacted] there were two or three other blank spaces to be filled in, but he could not remember what they were.

The book containing each individual's service record was about 25 x 35 cm and was placed in a gray cardboard binder. Data on 10 soldiers was entered on each page. Source believed the title of the book was Form No 2, VUS (VUS - Voyennaya Uchotnaya Spetsial'nost') - Military Occupational Speciality.

[redacted] additional data on an individual's qualifications and military specialities was added during his service.

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The company clerk maintained and compiled the company training schedule at the direction of the company commander. This training schedule indicated the time and subject of training, the instructor, and the personnel to attend training. The prepared schedule was signed by the company CO and countersigned and approved by the battalion chief of staff. Each day, the company clerk prepared a morning report (stroyevaya zapiska) based on the morning muster in the company. This indicated the number of EM present for duty, sick in the hospital, in arrest, in confinement, and on leave; no names appeared in the morning report, only grades and numbers. The morning report was submitted by the company clerk to the battalion chief clerk for consolidation and further submittal to the 13th Gds Mecz Div Hq. The company clerk also processed all personnel in his company for release from the service by completing, in an unknown manner, each individual's service record. When trainees graduated, company clerks sometimes were required to work from 48 to 72 hours doing an unknown type of administrative work.

#### Supply Classes, Channels, and Training

##### a. Classes of Supply

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16. [redacted] the term "rear area" meant all housekeeping functions, the supply of clothing, food, ammunition, and medical equipment.

[redacted] The Soviet Army used no distinguishing marks to illustrate different classes of supply other than initials of the full titles such as OVS, PFS, GSM, and contractions such as artillery armament (artvooruzheniye). [redacted] "OVS" as Obozo-Veshchevoye Snabzheniye (Clothing and Equipment Supply), "PFS" as Produkt-Furazhnoye-Snabzheniye (Rations and Forage Supply), and "GSM" as Goryucho-Smazochnyy Material (Fuel and Lubricant Material).<sup>9</sup>

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##### b. Supply Channels

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17. [redacted] the Soviet Air Force had its own supply channels.

[redacted] artillery supply included all types of ammunition but had no idea of the way that vehicles, engineer equipment, any other types of equipment were supplied, or even if there were other supply channels outside of rear service channels. [redacted] there were different supply channels for each Chief of Service, such as signal, artillery, and chemical services, in his unit. Each Battalion Chief of Service was informed by telephone when certain items were ready for issue at the appropriate division dump. He then received a clearance from his battalion commander authorizing him to draw the supplies. At the appropriate division dump, he had to sign a bill of lading itemizing the issue and then bring the supplies back on battalion transportation.

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##### c. Supply Training

18. [redacted] a quartermaster school (intendanskaya uchilishcha) for officers was located possibly in Kiev or Lvov. The Battalion Chief of PFS, Lt Nikolay Yakovlev, had been assigned to the battalion from this school. The 13th Gds Mecz Div held yearly courses for rear area specialists such as PFS clerks, cobblers, tailors, and cooks. These courses were held at division headquarters and lasted from one week to two months. No further information.

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Supply Installations and Production Centers in the USSR

19. The following information is on alleged Soviet supply dumps, installations, and production centers located in the Soviet Union.

a. [redacted] a large ration dump in Moscow located next to the Krasnaya Presnya Railroad Station. 25X1  
 [redacted] saw large amounts of butter, sausage, bread, sugar, salt, and other items of food located in an unknown number of buildings. Some of these buildings were half underground. Within this dump, there was a large transient mess capable of feeding 500 men at one time. 25X1  
 [redacted] 25X1  
 200 x 200 m. the total area of the dump to be

b. [redacted] many Soviet army personnel near the Chkalovskaya Railroad Station and, therefore, [redacted] there was a supply installation near that point. 25X1  
 [redacted] 25X1  
 25X1  
 c. [redacted] a summer training area near the Chelvinskaya Railroad Station in Moscow. [redacted] there was possibly a supply installation nearby. 25X1  
 25X1  
 25X1  
 d. [redacted] military installation called Aleshinsky Barracks near Taganskaya Ploshchad'. 25X1  
 [redacted] it was surrounded by a wooden fence about six meters high and that it was well guarded by military personnel. Inside the fence [redacted] a considerable number of one-story brick warehouses. 25X1  
 25X1  
 [redacted] Within a city block of the area surrounding the installation, there were no buildings higher than one story. 25X1  
 e. [redacted] there had been a large ammunition dump at the Chernyshevskiy Barracks, near Bol'shaya Serpukhovskaya, in Moscow many years ago. Sometime during this period, there was a large explosion which was still remembered by the residents of Moscow. 25X1  
 [redacted] this area was possibly still used for ammunition storage.

f. The only equipment-manufacturing points [redacted] were 25X1 in Moscow (the name "Moscow" was stamped inside of the service caps) and the town of Rasskazovo in the Tambovskaya Oblast which manufactured blankets and other items of uniforms and equipment. 25X1  
 [redacted] there was a chemical plant which manufactured explosives in this town.

## C. Evacuation and Medical Care

Physical Examinations

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[redacted] one complete medical examination after induction. 25X1  
 This examination was within a few days after his arrival for basic training at the 82d How Brig in Mulino (N 56-17, E 42-56), USSR.<sup>2</sup>  
 The examination was conducted by military doctors at the brigade dispensary.

considered [redacted] to be a very thorough examination. After this [redacted] sent to a camp hospital for an Xray.

21.

in Austria

[redacted] The Xray equipment came to the unit in [redacted] ambulance accompanied by one officer, of unknown rank, and a private. During the 1952 and 1953 examinations, Xrays were made in the vehicle. In 1954, the Xray machine was dismounted and brought into the unit dispensary. All officers, EM, and dependents of the battalion were Xrayed. Two persons [redacted] had tuberculosis and were sent to an unknown 25X1 Soviet military sanitarium located near Baden (N 48-01, E 16-14).

Inoculations

22. [redacted] inoculations three times after entering the service. Two were given during basic training and the third was given [redacted] in Austria. [redacted] each of these was a combination of tetanus and other immunizations. smallpox inoculation

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Unit Medical Facilities

23. The medical facilities [redacted] consisted of a four-bed dispensary. 25X1  
 [redacted] it contained scales, a ruler, unknown medicines, and a heat lamp. The dispensary was operated by a senior lieutenant (a feldsher), a lieutenant (a pharmacist), a sergeant (a medical instructor), and a private (a medical corpsman). The dispensary treated all minor ailments of battalion personnel and their dependents including amputations; often, tank hatch covers slammed on inexperienced mens' hands. This surgery was generally done without any pain-killing drugs or narcotics. VD, major fractures, appendicitis, and other ailments that required major surgery or extensive treatment were referred to the division hospital or Medsanbat.

24.

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[redacted] Several [redacted] EM  
 [redacted] had dental repairs done at the same place.

Medical Personnel

25. [redacted] medical personnel [redacted]

Chief of Medical Service, 13th Gds Mecz Div - a major (name unknown)  
 CO, 13th Gds Mecz Div Medsanbat - a lieutenant colonel, (name unknown)  
 CO, Med Co, 13th Gds Mecz Div Medsanbat - Lt Col STEPANOV (fnu)  
 Dentist, 13th Gds Mecz Div Medsanbat - Capt MOROZOV (fnu)

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Xray Technician, 13th Gds Mecz Div Medsanbat - a lieutenant (name unknown)

Surgeon, 13th Gds Mecz Div Medsanbat - Sr Lt TUZHBA (fmu)

Senior Nurse, 13th Gds Mecz Div Medsanbat - a voluntary civilian employee, Emma Ivanovna RYZHINKOVA

Surgical Nurse, 13th Gds Mecz Div Medsanbat - a female private (name unknown)

Several medical orderlies, 13th Gds Mecz Div Medsanbat - female privates (names unknown) 3 25X1

### Water Supply

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27.

the procurement and distribution of water during periods of water shortage was assigned to the chief of the battalion mess, a sergeant. At this time, battalion trucks were dispatched to Mannersdorf (N 47-58, E 16-36) and returned to the unit with water in wooden barrels 25X1

At times, the battalion feldsher announced that water was not potable and at these times, the unit received boiled water in unlimited quantities in canteens. under water discipline, one canteen per day 25X1 per man was the issue.

28.

the Soviet Army had a special type or water-purification tablet that could be used if and when water could not be boiled. two of these tablets would purify one canteen of water.

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### D. Soviet Army Supply in Austria

29.

### Ammunition

30.

sentries were issued two full magazines of ammunition before they went on guard duty. These were normally drums which carried approximately 70 rounds to be used with the PPSh SMG. 25X1

31.

the total number of rounds allocated for training purposes was very limited. no specific limitations on the training companies because the firing of individual weapons was often repeated for persons who did not qualify. this additional expenditure of ammunition was authorized the battalion commander if a designated level of firing proficiency was not reached by a sufficient number of men to make the use of the facilities of the firing range practicable. 25X1

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Rations

32. A special type of ration to be issued to the troops in an emergency was described in paragraph 12.

33.

Chemical Warfare Equipment

34.

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35.

was issued a gas mask described

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as the Shlem-1 and a paper gas cape

; no other chemical warfare equipment was issued.

36. There were items of CW equipment used by the battalion chief of chemical service for instruction. These were kept in the classrooms and in a room adjacent to the battalion guard room which was also used to store training aids.

37. [redacted] demonstration of a one-piece protective suit which was put on like a coverall. This clothing was made of a green plastic material called vinilite; it was unpleasant to the touch because of its sticky feeling. The suit was well powdered inside to eliminate part of the stickiness. The suit had a fixed hood and was pulled on over the boots; the suit legs were reinforced with thick rubber. There was a button closure down the front of the suit and cloth straps were used to close the cuffs. The suit was to be used by soldiers who decontaminated areas and equipment and was to be worn with a gas mask and rubber gloves. [redacted] a similar protective suit on a hanger, but this was in two pieces.

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38. CW class [redacted] At this class, the battalion chief of chemical service used a small, green, portable wooden case about 30 x 30 x 40 cm as a training aid. This kit was used for testing the atmosphere to determine the presence of a colorless and odorless gas called "tabun" which acted on the nervous system with fatal results. This kit was used by special mobile chemical defense stations that operated on an active front.

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39.

[redacted] there were other items used for demonstration.

40.

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## E. Unit Supply and Repair

Supply

41. [redacted] the supply points and system of the Soviet Army was previously described in Section B of this report.

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Driver Training

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42.

tank tracks), lubrication of tanks, and assembly and disassembly of fuel pumps, fuel regulators, and transmissions. T-34/76 and T-34/85 tanks were the vehicles used for instruction.

Repair

43.

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44.

Individual clothing and equipment were repaired by the individual soldiers and by two cobblers and one tailor who were members of the battalion staff.

45.

in units of the 13th Gds Mecz Div, each tank and SP gun company placed all combat-serviceable vehicles in winter storage when they returned from summer training. all medium tank and SP companies had in their T/O&E two training combat-vehicles that did not go into winter storage and were used as demonstration training-aids in the winter; also, all heavy tank and SP companies had one training combat-vehicle for the same purpose.

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#### F. Supply and Maintenance of Individual Equipment

Individual Weapons

46.

not all soldiers received arms. This was because they were in the battalion staff and some of the soldiers had jobs that did not require them to have individual arms. company officer was responsible for and issued all individual weapons. The number of the weapon was recorded in the Soldier's Service Book and, from that time on, the soldier had to maintain the weapon.

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In the training companies some of the personnel received what was called "training equipment". These were not actual weapons, but only mock weapons used in training. Some personnel did receive actual weapons which were issued in the same manner as the weapons in the tank supply company. Weapons and mock weapons were kept in the arms room of the

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company and issued out only for formations and training for which the weapons were required. Most of the training was carried out in the classrooms.

48. Prior to winter 1953, officers [redacted] kept their individual weapons in the staff duty officers' room. After this time, an order came from CGF in Baden that all officers would maintain their individual weapons on their person at all times. However, after an officer shot himself, the order was revoked and officers were again required to keep their weapons in the staff duty officers' room. [redacted] 25X1

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[redacted] It is possible, however, that the officer had shot himself accidentally or may have shot someone else.

#### Ammunition

49. Ammunition was issued to soldiers only when range-firing was conducted or when guards were on duty. When the individual soldier went on guard, he received two drums of SMG ammunition; all guard ammunition was kept at the battalion headquarters. Originally, the battalion staff duty officer was responsible for safeguarding ammunition for the weapons of all officers of the battalion, but, later, a specially-designated officer was appointed by the battalion CO to safeguard this ammunition. The officer designated to supervise and control the ammunition for weapons of the officers in the battalion was the Chief of Gunnery Training, Capt GERASIMOV (fnu).

#### Individual Equipment

50. During basic training [redacted] received no equipment other than [redacted] initial issue of clothing. When [redacted] in Austria [redacted] received a mess can, a canteen, and a gas mask. [redacted] 25X1

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#### Food

51. The average breakfast in the summer consisted of 200 g of bread, eight grams of sugar, about 200 g of potatoes, and some tea. Sometimes, the 200 g of boiled potatoes were replaced by approximately one-half liter of soup. At other times, potatoes or soup were replaced by noodles or macaroni; and, often, soldiers had some kind of mush or cereal. For the noon meal, they received approximately 300 g of bread, soup or borsch, and one of the starch dishes listed above. However, [redacted] mess made an effort to avoid duplication of the morning starch dish. [redacted] 25X1

25X1

52. Noodles and macaroni were considered a delicacy in the Soviet Army. During the evening meal, soldiers received a salad with a vinegar dressing (vinigret), potatoes or a mush, cereal, tea, and sugar; two-thirds of the 25 g daily ration of sugar was served at dinner or supper. Meat was sometimes served with the evening meal, but was generally boiled with the soup and served with the second course of potatoes or noodles; about 80 g was the authorized amount of meat served at the evening meal. One day a week was a vegetable day and soldiers received no meat on that day.

53. During the winter, the food ration was increased to about 200 g a day of bread and 10 g a day of sugar. [redacted] about 40 g of lard or fat was authorized per man per day in the summer ration to prepare the food. He also believed that the fat ration was increased by about 20 g in the winter. [redacted] 25X1

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25X1

54. [redacted] the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn [redacted] kept about 25X1  
 25 pigs in the basement of the building that housed the tank supply company EM. These pigs were the responsibility of the EM mess supervisor. The pigs were slaughtered on important holidays such as New Years, May Day, and the Day of the October Revolution; the pigs had been fed with scraps from the EM mess. Normally they were on the menu of the officers' mess but the EM mess received only the grease and lard for soups.

55. Meals were much better in the fall and during the early part of the winter because of the arrival of fresh vegetables from Hungary. The worst rations were in late winter and early spring when these vegetables became stale. They had been stored in the battalion PFS dump.

Clothing Allowances

a. Initial Issue

56. On arrival in the service, a soldier received one set of underwear, two pair of footwraps, one pair of boots, one tunic, one pair of trousers, a belt (for the loose-fitting blouse), and a service cap. This issue was handed out on the first day in a basic-training unit after a compulsory bath. In addition, the soldiers in the USSR received a cloth belt and an overcoat. [redacted] also issued two pairs of artillery shoulder boards, one for the overcoat and one for the tunic. This first issue was recorded in the soldier's service book at his basic training unit.

57. The second issue of clothing was made after six months of military service. During the first six months, new conscripts wore the initial issue without a change. Underwear was exchanged every ten days after a bath. [redacted] troops were permitted to bathe every ten days. Foot wraps were changed at each soldier's discretion after the foot wraps had been washed.

58. Soldiers trained in the USSR for service abroad were looked upon by their Soviet Army counterparts at home as "temporary guests." They got very little equipment in the USSR and were told that all necessary equipment would be issued at permanent stations. Because these soldiers made the long journey to their occupation assignments in dirty freight cars, they arrived in Austria in filthy uniforms. Immediately upon arrival, they were taken to the unit bath and issued a complete clean set of old uniform clothing. This clothing often did not fit and was merely issued to the men to allow them to have a change. [redacted] this issue of a second "work" uniform was not normal in other units and was attributed to the "scrounging" ability of the battalion supply officer. This work clothing consisted only of the tunic (gymnasterka) and trousers; there was no other issue at this time. The work clothing and the initial issue were retained by the soldiers until the next issue. Soldiers were expected to wash their own clothing. Soldiers also received a short, cotton-stuffed jacket (bushlat) which was for work only and was forbidden for off-garrison or off-duty wear; it was worn in place of the overcoat.

59. The overcoat was issued only once during a soldier's obligatory service and was never replaced. [redacted] only one man, the supervisor of the clothing and equipment warehouse, had a rain cape (plasht palatka). However, these rain capes were issued to sentries of the battalion going on guard duty. These capes were kept in the battalion guard house.

b. Subsequent Issues

60. Clothing was reissued every six months - April and November. When the clothing arrived, the first sergeant announced to the company that all EM were expected to turn in one complete set of clothing. Because all

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25X1

EM had two sets, they normally turned in the work set and retained the better and newer set as work clothing. Each man turned in his old set and received a completely new uniform from the first sergeant.

61. Items turned in were both pairs of foot wraps, the trousers, the tunic (with or without shoulder boards) and the seasonal headgear, a service (pilotka) cap in the fall and a winter hat in the spring. In the spring, gloves, winter foot wraps, and the one-piece heavy winter underwear were also turned in while the light two-piece cotton underwear was turned in during the fall.

62. [redacted] replacement issue, other than work clothing, 25X1 included a new tunic, new trousers, a new service cap, and two pairs of new shoulder boards. These shoulder boards were black with red piping and were identical with those issued in the USSR because both artillery and armor troops wore the same type. The only difference in these shoulder boards was the metallic crossed-cannon insignia issued in his basic training unit and the tank insignia issued in the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn. Because insignia were issued in both units only after several weeks delay, most soldiers removed their artillery insignia immediately after arrival in Austria and wore none for several weeks.

25X1

63. In type and quality, clothing of the second issue was generally identical with that of the first. Some items, such as tunics, differed. Many of the tunics were of a darker shade [redacted] and were sewn with brown thread. They appeared to have the same fabric design, weave, and thickness as the trousers. Their appearance was much better and they were woven of much better cotton. All clothing issued in the USSR and Austria was made from a light cotton (khlopchatobumazhny) material. Only the officers [redacted] received heavier broadcloth material for winter 25X1 uniforms.

64. In Austria, Soviet EM who held assignments on the staff [redacted] 25X1 were issued leather belts instead of the cloth-type issued to all soldiers in the USSR. These EM received their belts immediately after receiving their staff assignments. NCOs in battalion companies were also issued leather belts. [redacted] tank commanders in other units of the 25X1 13th Gds Mecz Div also received the leather belts as did members of the battalion's tank supply company.

65. In Austria, the personnel [redacted] in the armored units of the 13th Gds Mecz Div took baths and changed underwear every Saturday. Other units of the division were only authorized baths once every ten days. Baths had been taken and underwear exchanged once every ten days 25X1

66. During the summer months, each man was required to wash his own underwear. During the winter months, underwear was exchanged at the weekly bath. During very cold weather, each man was issued an extra-warm set of underwear in addition to the regular winter underwear. This was exchanged every two weeks.

67. The changeover to winter clothing occurred on 7 November while the changeover to summer clothing occurred during the first 15 days of April. The winter extra-warm underwear (of the "long john" variety) was issued when very cold weather began.

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25X1

68. Shoulder boards were exchanged every six months but most of the EM bought their own shoulder boards at the PX because those that were issued were of a very poor quality. Although tank men were authorized velvet or wool shoulder boards, the type issued [redacted] was always of [redacted] 25X1 very poor quality, a combination of cotton and cardboard.

Footwear

69. Boots were exchanged every eight months. Each man was issued one pair of boots made of an imitation leather, the tops made of plastic, and the bottoms of rubber. Tank and other vehicle drivers [redacted] 25X1 were the only persons issued an extra pair of boots; these were old boots that had been turned in and rebuilt either in the division or the battalion repair shop. If boots needed repair before the exchange date, the first sergeant had old repaired ones in the company supply as temporary replacements.

Officer Clothing

70. Officers received their summer issue of clothing in early spring and signed for it as a permanent issue at the battalion clothing and equipment warehouse. They were not required to turn this clothing in at any 25X1 time. The officers' winter issue consisted only of cloth which had been tailored into uniforms by Austrian civilian tailors. [redacted] the officers generally went into Mannersdorf for this service.

[redacted] officers were issued at least one pair of leather boots (yalovyye) and could purchase additional boots in Vienna.

[redacted] Officers always purchased their own gloves.

Headgear

71. Originally the EM in Austria were issued broadcloth service caps, but, by 1953, only some of the EM were fortunate enough to get them. By 1954, cotton service caps were the only type available for issue. Officers did not receive the service cap but wore the service hat (furazhka). In late December 1953, following the receipt of an order from CGF HQ to improve the status of the Soviet Army sergeant, all sergeants [redacted] 25X1 were issued service hats and blouses (mundir). Prior to the receipt of this order, only extended tour personnel (sverkhsrochniki) and officers received this type of headgear. Prior to this order, extended tour personnel received loose fitting, shirt-like broadcloth tunics (gymnasterka). After the order, they received broadcloth tailored blouses, as did the obligatory tour NCOs. 8

Differences in Clothing Quality

72. The only differences in the quality of the clothing issue [redacted] were the different qualities of tunics mentioned above. Personnel 25X1 who served in East Germany also received a different quality of uniform.

73. The off-color tunics were considered to be prizes [redacted] 25X1 and these items were generally taken by the battalion NCOs for themselves. [redacted] 25X1 this type of tunic was manufactured in East Germany for the Soviet Army; however [redacted] 25X1 [redacted]

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25X1

74.

there were certain differences between the clothing of Soviet Army personnel serving in Austria and those in East Germany. In Austria, Soviet Army personnel basically received the same clothing as that issued in the USSR, whereas clothing issued in East Germany was a little better in color and quality. The trousers, for example, were tailored in the same manner as the officers' trousers. and had narrower bottoms and cuffs for ease in filling a boot. [REDACTED] all EM in 25X1 Germany received leather (yalovyye) boots instead of the plastic and leather type worn by the EM in Austria and in the USSR. He knew of no 25X1 other differences between the clothing of Soviet Army personnel in East Germany and those in Austria and the USSR. [REDACTED]

#### Special Clothing for Artic or Winter Wear

75.

25X1

[REDACTED] a sleeveless cotton-stuffed vest was worn under the overcoat in exceptionally cold weather [REDACTED] in Austria and in the unit 25X1 [REDACTED] in the USSR, the guards received a leather great-coat (tulep) before going on guard. This was a long leather coat, beltless, lined with sheep fur, with a wide heavy fur-lined collar, which hung loose and was buttoned in the front. [REDACTED] several of 25X1 these coats were kept in the guard room for issue to the guards who had outdoor posts. and some were kept in the clothing and equipment warehouse [REDACTED] there were not more than 10 of these coats in his 25X1 battalion. Sentries of outdoor posts were also issued fur-lined boots (valenki) before going on guard.

#### Clothing Re-Issue and Salvage

76. Clothing turned in at the reissues was inspected. That which could be repaired was salvaged and sent to the battalion clothing repair point. After laundering, it was returned to the battalion clothing and equipment warehouse for reissue. Clothing that could no longer be repaired was also sent to the laundry. When returned, it was torn up in the presence of a witnessing officer and then reissued as cleaning material for guns and vehicles after completion of a certificate of destruction. [REDACTED] this was authorized by an unknown section of the division 25X1 staff. The witnessing officer was normally the battalion chief of clothing and equipment supply.

#### Military Stores and PX's

25X1

77. The military store (voyentorg) was used by the entire garrison at Goetzendorf and was located in an unidentified mortar regiment of the garrison. This store sold civilian clothing, decorative wall rugs, (an important Soviet black-market item made in Italy), footwear, socks, underwear, certain household articles such as pots and pans, different items of military uniforms and insignia for officers and EM, toilet articles, watches, fountain pens, ink, collar liners, different types of blankets, dark glasses, some items of women's clothing, and all types of cloth from silk to gabardine; no cameras or film were sold there.

78. In 1954, a food retail store was opened within the garrison. It sold meat, butter, lard, sausage, cheese, bread, cookies, different types of canned goods, chocolate, cigarettes, matches, candy, flour, sugar, cereals, herring, canned fish, meats, fruit, and macaroni. At one time, alcoholic beverages were sold but the authorities did not like it and limited the sales to officers. However, those sergeants who were known to the sales people were still able to buy liquor. There was never a wide selection of goods in this store. Source believed that the employees of this store were all Austrians hired by the Soviet forces. At one time an Austrian operated the meat concession and one woman, a Soviet civilian, operated the retail food store.

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25X1

79. There was a large store called Military Store No 2 in Vienna

This store had many departments and a wide 25X1 selection of goods. Officers were able to buy ready-made uniforms there. [redacted] items in the military stores that came from Austria, Bulgaria, [redacted], and the USSR. Alcoholic drinks were 25X1 mainly cognac, gin, and vodka. In Vienna, there was a wide selection of 25X1 drinks and source saw the word "whiskey" on bottles in the Vienna store;

Cigarettes sold were of Soviet and Hungarian manufacture. [redacted] different items of insignia for sale, such as shoulder boards, branch insignia, insignia of arms, collar flashes, ribbons for 25X1 rank for the shoulder boards, and other items of military identification. All purchases were made with Austrian schillings.

80. In both the Vienna and Goetzendorf military stores, there were no rationed items. No documents were required for entry or for making purchases. When a customer asked for an item in Russian, the sales clerk could not refuse the sale. There was a sign over the door of the food department that entrance was only permitted for Soviet civilian and military personnel. This sign was posted to prevent the sale of certain items to Austrian nationals. Resale of certain items to Austrians was forbidden because the prices in these stores were somewhat lower than in Austrian stores. [redacted] no one in the store 25X1 had the authority to refuse a sale if the request was given in Russian, 25X1 even by an Austrian civilian.

most of the canned foods in the Vienna store originated in the USSR and Bulgaria. Wine came mostly from Hungary and Bulgaria while the vodka was Austrian and Russian. The Russian vodka was about twice as expensive as the Austrian brands, but vodka connoisseurs in his unit told him that Russian vodka was much better than the Austrian. [redacted] Austrian vodka had many unhealthy ingredients in it and the [redacted] Russian vodka was well-distilled.

25X1

Finance

84. [redacted] a junior sergeant [redacted] received 84 rubles a month. Seventy-five rubles were posted in his pay book and the remaining nine rubles were paid in Austrian schillings (approximately 58). [redacted] 25X1 the pay [redacted] was for the job assignment and not for [redacted]

25X1

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85. [redacted] was floated in summer 1953. [redacted] a government loan 25X1

86. In fall 1953, when an order to increase the prestige of the Soviet line sergeant was issued, the rank pay of the line sergeants was increased an unknown amount. Personnel who occupied non-line positions in the grad of junior sergeant or higher had their pay frozen. They lost no pay however, and retained their grade. 25X1

[redacted] the difference between a line sergeant and a non-line sergeant was that a line sergeant had to have lower grade EM directly under his command, such as driver, instructors of the tank supply company, squad leaders, assistant platoon leaders, and first sergeants. Thus, NCOs who had no EM under their command found themselves in one of two categories. One category [redacted] continued to draw the pay they were already receiving and continued to hold their grades. The other category held their grades but received a pay cut. One of these [redacted] who received a pay cut was the battalion secret documents clerk who was a master sergeant. He kept his rank but received the lesser pay authorized by his job assignment. Thus, [redacted] personnel were actually reduced in grade and the T/O&E was expected to be stabilized through normal attrition. 25X1

87. The following are pay rates in the Soviet Army [redacted] 25X1

- a. A private serving in the USSR received 30 rubles per month regardless of the number of years of service.
- b. A private serving in Austria received 40 Austrian schillings per month and had nothing set aside in his pay book.
- c. A private first class serving in Austria received 55 schillings a month. [redacted] 25X1

88. [redacted] personnel were paid monthly, on or about the fifteenth of each month. No specific day was set aside for paying and the exact day on which the men were paid depended on the speed with which the Bn Chief of Finance made up the payroll. Company COs received their payroll from the Chief of Finance and passed it to their first sergeants. All personnel in the training companies were paid by either the first sergeant or the company clerk. Frequently, EM of the battalion staff drew their pay directly from the Bn Chief of Finance. If they did not receive their pay in this manner, they drew it from the first sergeant of the Tk Supply Co. All battalion officers drew their pay directly from the Bn Chief of Finance.

89. There was no special pay ceremony. Normally, it was merely announced at morning roll call that the first sergeant had the company's pay and that the men were to report for it sometime during the day. The Bn Chief of Finance started his work in preparing the payroll a few days before the troops were paid. First, he had to record the allotments which the NCOs and officers wanted sent to the USSR. These allotments were set aside in rubles and used for paying newspaper and magazine subscriptions as well as for the support of families in the USSR, payment of debts, and other reasons. The Bn Chief of Finance then completed the payroll which was a roster of all battalion personnel by companies and which indicated

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25X1

each man's name, rank, duty assignment, and the amount to be paid him after deduction of allotments. He then signed the payroll and submitted it to the Div Field Bank, located at 13th Mecz Div Hq in Moedling (N 48-05, E 16-17). Finally, he received the money from the bank and was ready for payment. [redacted] the battalion CO was also required to sign the payroll. Officers and EM signed the payroll beside their names on receipt of their pay.

25X1

90. Money that was withheld and entered into the individual's pay book in rubles was returned to the individual when he returned to the USSR. The only exception to this rule was that withheld pay could not be paid in a border town such as Chop whether a soldier was on leave or being demobilized. He was required to inform the battalion chief of finance where he wished to receive this money and how much of it he wanted.

91. When an EM was found liable for lost or damaged equipment, he could be required to pay for it, but never more than two months' pay was ever required. [redacted] pay could not be withheld from an individual as punishment except in the form of a reduction in grade. In this case, a man began drawing the lower pay on the effective date of the reduction order.

92. It was possible to exchange Austrian schillings into Rubles at the first rail stop after crossing the Soviet border. [redacted] 25X1 compared to the Soviet Army exchange rate. Personnel were not permitted to unfreeze any of their withheld pay while on duty in Austria.

25X1

25X1

#### G. Miscellaneous

##### Deficiencies in the Soviet Supply System

93. [redacted] weak points in the Soviet supply system: 25X1

- The low pay scale of conscripted personnel.
- The poor quality of military clothing.
- The poor food, bordering on being inedible.

25X1

94. Soviet servicemen were required to buy boot polish, a boot brush, toilet soap, a tooth brush, tooth powder, and shaving equipment. There was no barber shop in [redacted] Austria and the EM were forced to buy barbering equipment out of their own pocket and give each other haircuts. In the USSR, this was not necessary because the EM could get passes to go to town for this purpose. There were no barber shop facilities on posts in the USSR and all officers and EM received their haircuts in civilian barber shops.

95. Such items as collar liners, handkerchiefs, and sewing equipment were issued items and it was the company CO's responsibility to provide them for the EM. EM were entitled to an issue of handkerchiefs and two collar liners each year. However, there were only two instances during source's entire period of service when [redacted] received handkerchiefs and collar liners. They were to have been in the initial issue of clothing in basic training but no one in his group received them when they arrived

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25X1

at the 82d How Brig in Mulino, USSR. Sewing equipment was generally purchased by the men themselves although there were times when the company first sergeants had it for issue.

96. [redacted] there  
were instances when [redacted] unable to comply with the training  
program because of shortages of gasoline in the battalion. [redacted]

25X1

97. Occasionally, soldiers received uniforms that did not fit during the semi-annual clothing reissue [redacted]. Efforts were made to overcome this by trading them among the soldiers. In cases where the individual was extremely tall or very short, the battalion tailor performed an amateurish job of alteration.

25X1

98. [redacted] 25X1

#### Stationery Supply

99. [redacted] in Austria, an unknown amount of stationery used by the battalion was drawn from an unknown agency in the 13th Gds Mecz Div Hqs by the battalion chiefs of staff. The supply of paper, ink, pens, and pencils was not adequate for the needs of the battalion and additional items had to be purchased on the Austrian economy with money from a special fund allocated to the battalion. Most of the stationery used by the battalion was purchased in this manner. [redacted]

25X1

[redacted] The secret documents section in the battalion and the remainder of the battalion staff had separate stocks of stationery. Most of the correspondence [redacted] was in long hand because there were only two typewriters for the entire battalion. One of these typewriters was used by the secret documents clerk and the other by the chief clerk of the battalion staff.

25X1

#### Battalion Kitchens and Dining Rooms

100. [redacted] the kitchen and the dining rooms were all in the same building. The main dining room, separated by a wall from the kitchen, could seat nearly 300 men at one time. This room was used by the two battalion training companies. Upstairs, there was another dining room that could accommodate about 50 men; this was used by the tank supply company and the EM of the battalion staff. The third dining room was located just off the kitchen and seated all of the battalion extended tour EM (sverkhsrochniki).

25X1

101. The tables in the dining rooms were wooden tables with benches on each side. The benches could seat ten men each. The kitchen equipment consisted of four 200-liter cast-iron kettles, a large stove, and a baking oven. Both the oven and the stove were coal-burning. The mess had aluminum plates, bowls, and wash pans.

102. The EM who ate in the battalion mess brought their own drinking mugs and spoons; they were not authorized knives and forks. Other equipment consisted of several work tables and meat chopping tables. The unit had no ice box or refrigerating facilities; meat was kept in the battalion ration dump in an underground storage room and was brought to the mess daily. It was delivered from an unidentified installation to the battalion three times a week in the summer and once a week in the winter.

#### Coal Supply

103. [redacted] the heating plants in all the buildings were coal-burning. [redacted]

25X1

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25X1

occasionally, there was a telephone call from the railroad station in Mannersdorf informing the unit that coal was ready and could be picked up. A work detail of soldiers and battalion trucks would then go there and bring back the coal allocation.

The major part of the coal received 25X1 was in briquette form; only rarely, did the unit receive plain rock coal.

25X1

Comment: Russian Military Dictionary TM 30-544 give the following meaning for GSM: Goryucheye i Smazochnoye Maslo - Fuel and Lubricant.

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